

BOOK REVIEWS



IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON

ROTUNDA MIDWIFERY. For Nurses and Midwives. By G. T. Wrench, M.D., late Assistant Master Rotunda Hospital. With an Introduction by The Master of the Rotunda Hospital, London. Henry Frowde. Oxford University Press. Hodder & Stoughton, Warwick Square, E. C.

This book, most valuable teaching in its line, suffers a considerable depreciation by transportation from the country of its production. There is in America no class of midwives as they are known and licensed and governed by proper authority in England. The midwife class in America is not given to the reading of books, and what reading they do is not likely to be English. The professional shingle usually sets forth its owner's merit in Yiddish, German, or Italian. The author discusses and exhaustively considers the subject of midwifery from the midwives' point of view, and although the nurse may read the book with great profit, the fact remains that it is not written to or for nurses. It is addressed to women ignorant of knowledge of anatomy, physiology and general nursing. These women are supposed to be highly educated in matters mechanical and skilful and expert in the conduct of a case of labor.

The book is written largely in the form of question and answer,—leaving small latitude for the exercise of mental function,—as the following quotation suggests:

“What is abnormal labor? Abnormal labor includes (1) all cases of vertex presentation in which the child and afterbirth are not delivered without complications within twenty-four hours, and (2) all other presentations whether complicated or delivered without complications.”

But if it is too learned and overtechnical for the nurse, and entirely beyond the comprehension of the American midwife, it is sure to prove a boon to the young practitioner. The volume is of convenient size, beautifully bound and printed, and to the younger and less experienced members of the medical profession may probably become most acceptable reading. It is a pity, however, that so much valuable

information should be delivered in such a personal, fussy, and condescending manner. One never is allowed to forget that the author addresses an inferior order of being.

LECTURES ON MEDICINE TO NURSES. By Herbert E. Cuff, M.D., Late Superintendent, North Eastern Fever Hospital, Tottenham, London. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St.

This book is compiled from a set of lectures delivered to nurses, and while one feels that there are other lectures which preceded and that there are more to come, the book is very interesting reading and full of good hints on the subject of medical nursing. Each chapter is complete in itself and has little or no bearing on any other chapter. For instance, the first chapter, lesson, or lecture, is on "Germs and Infection;" the second, is on the use of stimulants in cases of acute illness, the third on the feeding of infants, the fifth on the pulse, later on come specific fevers, etc. The diseases are discussed as to their cause, location, symptoms, length of duration, complications, prognosis, treatment, diet, stimulants, management of convalescence, disinfection after contagious diseases, etc. Nothing new, yet all the old points interestingly reviewed and forgotten things recalled to mind; just the brushing up one needs if one has become rusty or if one feels in danger of being relegated to the place of "a back number" and wishes to avoid this awful fate.

COMING MOTHERHOOD. By Louis M. Spaeth, M.D., Philadelphia. Published by the Author, and for Sale at the Shop of Peter Reilly, 133 North Thirteenth Street.

This little book is especially addressed to young and expectant mothers. It treats of the physiological changes incident to parturition and the attendant symptoms of the same, but in the most simple language possible. The book is absolutely free of long-named, terrifying technical terms and lacks the usual alarming plates. Here are no instructions to the obstetrical nurse, no teaching for the student. Very briefly the signs of pregnancy are stated, its duration reckoned; the reflex changes due to the condition, and the disorders which sometimes accompany it are noted and commented upon, with reassuring simplicity. The latter part of the little volume concerns itself with the rearing of the infant and has some useful hints on clothing, diet, general hygiene, etc.